

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-381V

(E-Filed: May 12, 2014)

* * * * *	*	
WILLIAM OBERLE,	*	UNPUBLISHED
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Special Master
	*	Hamilton-Fieldman
v.	*	
	*	Influenza Vaccination;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	*	Optic Neuritis; Decision; Stipulation.
HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
* * * * *	*	

Edward M. Kraus, Law Offices of Chicago Kent, Chicago, IL, for Petitioner.

Traci R. Patton, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES AND ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS<sup>1</sup>**

On June 7, 2013, Petitioner, William Oberle, filed a petition seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("the Vaccine Program"). Petitioner alleged that he suffered optic neuritis, as a result of receiving an influenza vaccination received on December 20, 2011.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned's action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Otherwise, "the entire" decision will be available to the public. *Id.*

<sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa-10-§ 300aa-34 (West 1991 & Supp. 2002) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

Respondent denies that Petitioner's influenza vaccination caused his optic neuritis and/or any other injury. Nonetheless, both parties, while maintaining their above stated positions, agreed in a Stipulation, filed May 9, 2014, ("Stipulation") that the issues before them can be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding Petitioner compensation.

The undersigned finds said stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The stipulation awards:

A lump sum of \$180,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a) to which Petitioner would be entitled; and

Stipulation ¶ 8(a).

The parties further stipulated that they had reached the following agreement with respect to attorneys' fees and costs:

A lump sum of \$24, 808.43, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's attorney, Edward Kraus, Esq., for attorneys' fees and costs. In accordance with General Order No. 9, Petitioner represents that he incurred no out-of-pocket expenses in proceeding on the petition.

Stipulation ¶8(b).

The undersigned approves the requested amounts for Petitioner's compensation. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Lisa D. Hamilton-Fieldman  
Lisa D. Hamilton-Fieldman  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

WILLIAM OBERLE,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
v.	)	No. 13-381V
	)	Special Master Hamilton-Fieldman
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN	)	ECF
SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. William Oberle, petitioner, filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 *et seq.* (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to Mr. Oberle's receipt of the influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received his flu immunization on December 20, 2011.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that the flu vaccine caused him to suffer optic neuritis.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.
6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner to suffer optic neuritis or any other injury or condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$180,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a); and
- b. A lump sum of \$24,808.43, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Edward Kraus, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e), for attorneys' fees and costs. In compliance with General Order #9, petitioner represents that he incurred no out-of-pocket expenses in proceeding on the petition.

9. Petitioner and his attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

10. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be

used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on December 20, 2011, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about June 7, 2013, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 13-381V.

13. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act




Respectfully submitted,

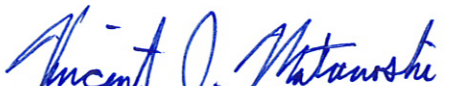
**PETITIONER:**

  
WILLIAM OBERLE

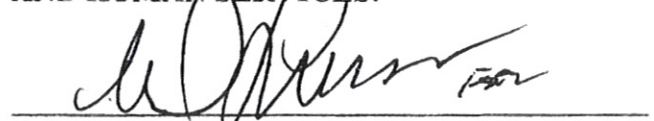
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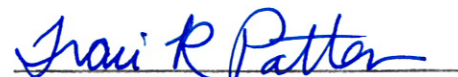
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Dated: 5-2-14  
5-9-2014 TRP